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Commission on the Status of Women
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Item 3 (c) (i) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world

Statement submitted by International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, Soroptimist International, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; All India Women's Conference, Associated Country Women of the World, Baha'i International Community, International Federation of University Women, International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, International Federation of Women Lawyers, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, United States Committee for UNIFEM, and World Young Women's Christian Association, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Altrusa International, Armenian International Women's Association, and United Nations Association of the USA, non-governmental organizations on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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* E/CN.6/2002/1.

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We, the international and national non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and members of the NGO Committee on UNIFEM, support and congratulate UNIFEM for its twenty-five years of innovative work to reduce poverty among women by strengthening women's economic security and rights.

UNIFEM has focused these efforts in three critical areas:

1.) Building capacity to manage globalization and economic transition from the perspective of poor women

- Analyzing trade regimes and identifying successful strategies for engendering trade agreements to expand women's economic opportunities
- Helping establish gender advisory structures and bring representatives from women's groups to trade negotiations
- Strengthening understanding of macroeconomics from a gender perspective among women advocates and policy-makers
- Supporting the creation and/or strengthening of advocacy networks to influence economic policy and decision-making

2.) Strengthening women's economic capacity, rights and bargaining power to achieve sustainable livelihoods

- Supporting market analyses that build women`s capacity to access and shape markets by identifying products and services women can produce
- Enhancing women's economic capacity, rights and bargaining power by providing opportunities to hone technical and marketing skills, strengthening negotiating and

bargaining tactics, fostering women's access to and influence over new technologies, building women's networks and business associations

- Promoting trade fairs to highlight women's economic potential and expand their market opportunities

3.) Promoting legal and regulatory reform to enable women's equal ownership and access to economic resources and assets

- Expanding the availability and use of data disaggregated by sex and age to support policy formation
- Sensitizing statisticians to gender needs and the value of disaggregated, survey design and censuses
- Undertaking gender analysis of national budgets
- Identifying policies and regulations that promote and impede women's abilities to secure sustainable livelihoods

UNIFEM's biennial report, *Progress of the World's Women 2000*, documents the links between women's economic, social and political status and rights, pointing out that the last decade has marginalized women's economic rights and empowerment. It recommends raising women's shares of administrative and managerial positions to at least 30% by 2005 and 50% by 2015 to address gender balance in decision-making and gender equality in the labour market.

UNIFEM has strengthened its advocacy to ensure that feminized poverty is the central focus of the Millennium goal of halving world poverty by 2015. Recognizing that women and girls are most affected by the economic instability and violence associated with armed conflict, UNIFEM has been a leader in building world peace.

We wholeheartedly endorse these and other important efforts of UNIFEM in supporting the work of governments and civil society in their work to address and re-dress the root causes of poverty, especially among women.